

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 OIC-02 /126 W
-----023547 191956Z /73

R 182318Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0326
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

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USMTN

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, MX
SUBJECT: US-MEXICO TRADE SUBGROUP - PLENARY SESSION MAY 12,
1978

REF: MEXICO 08126

FOLLOWING IS FROM EMBASSY OFFICERS' NOTES; US DEL HAS NOT
CLEARED.

1) HERNANDEZ NOTED THE WORKING GROUP HAD DONE A DETAILED
REVIEW OF ALL THE AGENDA ITEMS EXCEPT ITEMS 5 AND 6 WHICH
HAD BEEN FULLY COVERED IN THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION.
HE SAID AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO SET UP A SUB-
GROUP TO CONSIDER PROBLEMS AFFECTING TRADE BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, WITH THE FIRST
MEETING TO BE HELD WITHIN TEN DAYS. (NOTE: DISCUSSIONS
AFTER THE WORKING GROUP SESSION INDICATE THAT THIS SUB-
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GROUP MEETING WILL BE DELAYED.) HE FELT THAT BOTH MEXICO
AND THE U.S. HAD REACHED A BROAD UNDERSTANDING ON ALL
POINTS. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MEXICO WOULD RECEIVE U.S.
EXECUTIVE BRANCH SUPPORT FOR ITS CASE ON RAILROAD CAR
EXPORTS AND THAT DUE NOTE WAS TAKEN OF THE MEXICAN
POSITIONS ON THE TRIGGER PRICE ISSUE, SEN. BENTSEN'S
LIVESTOCK BILL, AND THE ITC PROCEEDING. GARRIDO ADDED

THAT MEXICO TOOK NOTE OF THE U.S. CONCERNS ON THE ALCOHOL EXCISE TAX AND SAID, WHILE IT WAS NOT DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST THE U.S. ALONE, THAT MEXICO WOULD STUDY THE QUESTION FURTHER. HE FELT THE U.S. DEL HAD GAINED AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FEED LOT BENEFITS WHICH ACCRUE TO THE U.S. AS A RESULT OF MEXICAN CATTLE EXPORTS. HE ALSO HOPED PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IN THE MTN ON THE QUESTION OF MEXICAN TEQUILA EXPORTS.

2) AMBASSADOR WOLFF AGREED WITH THE BASIC THRUST OF THE MEXICAN PRESENTATION. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE RAILROAD CAR PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLVED THROUGH U.S. DOMESTIC PROCEDURES. ALSO THAT THE ALCOHOL TAX WAS A VERY UNPLEASANT SURPRISE AND COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. TRADE LIBERALIZATION EFFORTS ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. HE SUGGESTED A TRADE HOTLINE TO AVOID SUCH SURPRISES IN THE FUTURE. WOLFF ALSO NOTED THE BENEFITS WHICH WOULD ACCRUE TO MEXICO UPON JOINING THE GATT. HE SAID THE GATT IS NOT PERFECT BUT IT IS A VERY USEFUL DEVICE.

3) AFTER THE PLENARY THE WORKING GROUP AGREED THAT A MEXICAN GATT EXPERT WOULD GO TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS GATT OBLIGATIONS WITH EXPERTS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, TREASURY, AND COMMERCE AS WELL AS THE STR. ALSO IT WAS AGREED THAT AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE WORKING WOULD BE HELD TO DISCUSS THE U.S. AND MEXICAN AGRI-CULTURAL OFFERS. THOMPSON
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NNN

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